Legislative Bill Tracking 2007

Voter Registration Assistance On Independence Day, July 4, Governor Chris Gregoire signed into law Executive Order 07-04, a measure designating the Washington State Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS) as a voter assistance agency as required by the National Voter Registration Act 1993 (NVRA) and state law. DSHS is direct voter assistance in the following manner:

1. Appoint a Voter Registration Assistance Officer who will monitor and be responsible for efficient and appropriate compliance with state and federal voter registration assistance laws;
2. Analyze how best to use technology to efficiently and effectively provide voter registration assistance for in-person services as well as telecenters and web portals; and
3. Cooperate with the Secretary of State's Office to ensure that DSHS delivers voter registration assistance services in a manner that allows the Secretary of State to carry out the Secretary's voter registration responsibilities efficiently.

UPDATE - May 17, 2007 Governor Chris Gregoire signed into law a measure that will close holes in prescription drug coverage for seniors and other vulnerable individuals, left when the US Congress passed the Medicare Modernization Act of 2003. Introduced at Governor Gregoire's request, House Bill 1095 continues to allow the state Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS) to use available funds to pay the prescription drug co-pays for people who are enrolled in the new Medicare prescription drug program, Part D.

The following are other bills in which you may be interested:
*   HB 1051 - Expanding high school completion programs. Allows students under 21 who have completed all state and local graduation requirements except the Certificate of Academic Achievement to enroll at no charge at a community or technical college in a program to earn a high school diploma. The Governor partially vetoed this bill. It becomes law on July 22, 2007.

- HB 1206 - An Act relating to assisting low-income persons to obtain affordable automobile liability insurance. This bill did not pass.
- HB 1512/SB 5666 - Increasing the linked Deposit Program amount from $100 million to $150 million. The Governor signed this bill into law.
- SB 5165/HB 1194 - Mathematics WASL. This bill did not pass.
- SB 5166 - Korean American Day. The Governor signed this bill. It becomes law on July 22, 2007.
- SB 5239 - Mathematics assessment. This bill did not pass.
- SB 5497/HB 1573 - Dropout prevention. The Governor partially vetoed this bill. It has not yet been signed.
- SB 5714 - Spanish and Chinese languages. This bill did not pass.
- SB 5828 - Early child development. The Governor signed this bill. It becomes law on July 22, 2007.

Senate Joint Memorials:
- SJM 8008 - Family Reunification Program and full Veterans benefits to the Filipino World War II veterans. Introduced by Senator Margarita Prentice. This passed and was filed with the Office of the Secretary of State.
- SJM 8018 - Requesting that the Philippines Consulate be established in Seattle, Washington. This bill did not pass.

The Legislature introduced a total of 2,850 bills during the 2007 Legislative Session. The Governor has signed 522 bills, in total or in part, in to law.

Agency Overview
The CAPAA was established by the state legislature in 1974 to improve the well-being of Asian Pacific Americans (APAs) by insuring their access to participation in the fields of government, business, education, and other areas. It has a board made up of 12-governor appointed members that represent the diverse APA communities of Washington State.

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